



Independent Electrical Contractors of New England, Inc.



GOVERNOR'S BILL NO. 6445 AN ACT EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY IN OCCUPATIONS LICENSED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

February 22, 2021

Submitted by: Allie French, Executive Director, Independent Electrical Contractors of New England

Dear Distinguished Members of the General Law Committee:

The Independent Electrical Contractors of New England would like to offer our testimony on Governor's Bill 6445. We would like to express our support of the intent of this bill. We feel this bill would be a step in the right direction of addressing the shortage of licensed journeypersons that we have and the inability to hire additional apprentices due to regulations. We would like to propose some suggestions for consideration to both the language and the content. As the bill is currently written, all determinations will be made by "the department". We would like to recommend the *addition* of "and the appropriate boards". This would allow for the involvement of the respective occupational boards. We feel the individual should also be required to be current on their continuing education requirements in their respective jurisdiction/state. We feel it is important to verify that their credentials are in good standing prior to issuing them an occupational or professional license to work in our state. Our final recommendation would be to change the number of years of related work experience from three to four years. For an electrical apprentice to be eligible to sit for their journeyperson's exam, they are required to complete 8,000 hours of on-the-job training in addition to a certificate of completion from an approved educational training provider. This is equivalent to the four years that we are suggesting. We feel that these suggestions allow for the appropriate individuals to be involved in the decision-making process and that we are bringing in quality individuals to practice in our state. We feel that this would be a good compliment to the Governor's workforce development initiatives.

I thank you for your support and consideration of our comments regarding Governor's Bill 6445. We would be happy to participate in any discussion regarding our comments. We can be reached in our office by e-mail, allie@iecne.org or by phone 860-563-4953.